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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/894,415	06/28/2001	Ryoji Yamagishi	83171	6871

7590 07/14/2003

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EXAMINER

LABAZE, EDWYN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2876

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/894,415

Applicant(s)

YAMAGISHI ET AL.

Examiner

EDWYN LABAZE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of amendments filed on 4/09/2003.
2. Claims 2-11 are presented for examination.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 3-5 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rigo (U.S. 6,260,686).

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Re claims 3 and 4: Rigo teaches device for identification of coins and/or transponders, which includes a coin-shaped IC card reader/writer 171 for performing the processing of reading data from the coin-shaped IC card 10 and writing data to card/transponder (col.6, lines 4-47) while temporarily stopping the rolling movement of the coin-shaped card (col.3, lines 66+ and col.5, lines 3-67) and based on results of the processing, distributing means the coin-shaped card to another coin-shaped guide path disposed separately from the first-mentioned coin-shaped card guide path 151 or 153 (col.4, lines 10-67), a distributing lever 191 which is provided at one end of the first mentioned guide path 15, and supported so as to be turnable in a direction at right angles to a direction of advance of the first mentioned guide path (See Figs. # 1 and 3-4 of Rigo and col.4, lines 6+), a wall body 19 that temporarily stops the coin-shaped card passing through the interior of the first-mentioned guide path 15 in a condition where the card 10 is inserted (col.3, lines 66+), further teaches drive means 181 for driving the distributing lever (col.4, lines 30+).

Re claim 5: Rigo discloses an apparatus, further comprising a turning position detection sensor 17 provide at a position adjacent to the distributing lever, for detecting turning position of the distributing lever (col.5, lines 1-67).

Re claim 10: Rigo teaches an apparatus, wherein the coin-shaped card guide paths include a collection path 153 for collecting and a return path for returning the coin-shaped card 151 (See fig. # 1 of Rigo and col.4, lines 10+).

6. Re claim 11: Rigo discloses an apparatus, further comprising coin diameter detection means (through coil 16) for detecting whether or not diameter or a coin shaped object deposited in a card slot has a specific size/mass/geometry/material (col.3, lines 48-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 2, 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rigo (U.S. 6,260,686) in view of Hossfield et al. (U.S. 5,040,986).

Re claim 2: Rigo discloses device for identification of coins and/or transponders, which includes a coin-shaped IC card reader/writer 171 for performing the processing of reading data from the coin-shaped IC card 10 and writing data to card/transponder (col.6, lines 4-47) while temporarily stopping (through positioning member 19) the rolling movement of the coin-shaped card (col.3, lines 66+ and col.5, lines 3-67) and based on results of the processing, distributing means the coin-shaped card to another coin-shaped guide path disposed separately from the first-mentioned coin-shaped card guide path 151 or 153 (col.4, lines 10-67).

Rigo fails to disclose a shaft 30 turnably supported at one end of the first-mentioned coin-shaped card IC card guide path; a partition plate secured to a leading end surface of the shaft, for opening and closing an upstream end of the another card guide, in conjunction with turning of the shaft

Hossfield et al. discloses method and apparatus for discriminating and collecting coins, which includes a coin-shaped IC distributing means (through the coin slot 18) providing in the coin-shaped IC card guide path (col.3, lines 25+), wherein the card distributing means comprises a shaft 30 turnably supported at one end of the first-mentioned coin-shaped card IC card guide

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path (col.3, lines 35-67); a partition plate 22 secured to a leading end surface of the shaft, for opening and closing an upstream end of the another card guide, in conjunction with turning of the shaft (col.3, lines 32+); a drive unit 42 for driving the shaft (col.3, lines 44+).

In view of Hossfield et al.'s teachings, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ into the teachings of Rigo the stopping mechanism of coin-shaped with a partition plate for processing reading and writing on the coin-shaped card and distributing the card to appropriate guide path after the processed results. Furthermore, such modification would eliminate the need for different gates from each guide path (accept and reject) and automatically direct the coin-shaped card to proper guide path in conjunction with control unit and the reader/writer unit. Moreover, such modification would have been an obvious extension as taught y Rigo, therefore an expedient.

Re claim 6: Rigo teaches an apparatus, wherein the coin-shaped card guide paths include a collection path 153 for collecting and a return path for returning the coin-shaped card 151 (See fig. # 1 of Rigo and col.4, lines 10+).

Re claims 7: Rigo discloses an apparatus, further comprising coin diameter detection means (through coil 16) for detecting whether or not diameter or a coin shaped object deposited in a card slot has a specific size/mass/geometry/material (col.3, lines 48-60).

Re claim 8: Rigo teaches an apparatus, further comprising a positioning ring 14 provided at the terminal end of the card return path, for positioning and supporting the coin-shaped object guided through the IC card return path (See Fig. # 1 of Rigo, and col.3, lines 30+).

Re claim 9: Rigo discloses an apparatus, further comprising a shutter 191 provided in the first-mentioned coin-shaped IC card guide path, for opening and closing the first-mentioned coin

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shaped card guide path based on detection signals of the coin diameter detection means (col.4, lines 6-60).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 4/09/2003 have been fully considered but are moot in light of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kojima (U.S. 5,950,795) discloses exact change coin collection device.

Ali (U.S. 6,119,844) teaches coin validation apparatus and method.

Gautherot (U.S. 6,050,388) discloses device for selecting objects, particularly coins.

Hossfield et al. (U.S. 5,684,597) teaches method and device for coin diameter discrimination.

Abe (U.S. 5,096,039) discloses coin intermittent accepting device.

Johnson et al. (U.S. 4,625,851) teaches coin-testing apparatus.

Farmont (U.S. 5,487,459) discloses collection and issuing apparatus for round parking cards.

Parker (U.S. 4,884,672) teaches coin analyzer system and apparatus.

Mori et al. (U.S. 6,508,700) discloses coin-processing device.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDWYN LABAZE whose telephone number is (703) 305-5437.

The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

el
Edwyn Labaze
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
June 26, 2003

DANIEL S/CIR
PRIMARY EXAMINER
